United Nations A/54/572

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 85

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. **Sorreta** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly decision 53/422 of 4 December 1998.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);

(b) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the priorities for action adopted during the first summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448);

99-34667 (E) 181199

(c) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);

(d) Letter dated 27 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 (A/54/514-S/1999/1102).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.23

5. At the 16th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/54/L.23). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 25th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.23 by a recorded vote of 137 to none, with 5 abstentions (see para.7). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United

[1] The delegations of Benin and Suriname subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour.

Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996 and opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Noting that the first meeting of the States Signatories adopted resolution CTBT/MSS/RES/1 of 19 November 1996, thereby establishing the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Noting also that in decision 53/422 of 4 December 1998, it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty",

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred fifty-five States, including forty-one States of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming also the ratification of fifty-one States, including twenty-six of the forty-four needed for its entry into force,

Welcoming the convening of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 to promote its entry into force at the earliest possible date,

1. *Endorses* the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[2] and, in particular:

(a) Calls upon all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its object and purpose in the meanwhile;

(b) Calls upon all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their early successful conclusion;

2. *Urges* all States to sustain the momentum generated by the Conference by continuing to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

[2] A/54/514-S/1999/1102, annex, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1102.

3. *Welcomes* the contributions by States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty at entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

4. *Urges* States to maintain their moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".